

ADULT EPIGLOTTITIS

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Medical Practice Question

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time medical practice questions from organizations with a legitimate interest in the information are referred to the Scientific Board by the Quality Care Review Commission of the California Medical Association. The opinions offered are based on training, experience and literature reviewed by specialists. These opinions are, however, informational only and should not be interpreted as directives, instructions or policy statements.

Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis With Metronidazole

QUESTION:

Is it accepted medical practice to treat rheumatoid arthritis with metronidazole?

OPINION:

In the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Panels on General and Family Practice and Internal Medicine, the use of metronidazole (Flagyl) in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis is considered unacceptable medical practice. There is no credible scientific evidence to prove that this therapy is effective and, in light of its known serious side effects in some patients, metronidazole may be a potentially dangerous remedy.

The Arthritis Foundation has taken strong exception to the use of this drug for arthritis. And Searle Pharmaceuticals, Inc, the manufacturer of Flagyl, has stated that it does not have any "valid evidence that would support Flagyl being effective in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, nor that it exerts any activity as an anti-inflammatory agent."